

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 DODE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13 PRS-01 USIA-06 PA-01 /051 W
----- 091645 /13
P R 220930Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0822
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 2378

FOR AF/S AND DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER
ASSISTANCE (AID)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, WZ
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO SWAZILAND
RED CROSS

1. SUMMARY. WITH AMBASSADOR'S CONCURRENCE, POST
REQUESTS AUTHORITY CONTRIBUTE \$10,000 TO SWAZILAND RED
CROSS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF NOVEMBER 18 TORNADO. END
SUMMARY.

2. ON NOVEMBER 18 TORNADO-FORCE WINDS STRUCK SIX SQUARE
MILE AREA ABOUT TWENTY MILES SOUTH OF MBABANE. THREE
PERSONS KILLED, OTHERS HOSPITALIZED AS RESULT OF STORM.
BETWEEN 250 AND 300 FAMILIES SUFFERING HARDSHIP WITH
GREAT DAMAGE TO HOUSES, OVER TWENTY OF WHICH COMPLETELY
DEMOLISHED.

3. GOS HAS BEEN SLOW TO DEFINE SCOPE OF PROBLEM AND TO
INITIATE REMEDIAL ACTION. LEADERSHIP IN IDENTIFYING
EXTENT OF LOSS HAS, IN FACT, BEEN TAKEN BY FATER DAMIAN
CHARBONEAU, CATHOLIC PRIEST PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER
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LECTURUX AT LUYENGO CAMPUS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
SWAZILAND, IN HEART OF TORNADO AREA. HEAD OF SWAZILAND
RED CROSS, WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED
PROBLEM, RELYING HEAVILY ON FATHER CHARBONEAU'S
EFFORTS.

4. BASED ON FATHER CHARBONEAU'S REPORTS TO EMBASSY, AND CHARGE'S VISIT TO AFFECTED AREA, GREATEST IMMEDIATE NEED IS METAL ROOFING TO RE-COVER HOUSES THAT ARE DETERIORATING IN CURRENT RAINY SEASON. OVERALL IDENTIFIED NEEDS TO DATE, INCLUDING ROOFING, APPROACH \$25,000.

5. AS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, RESULTS OF RED CROSS RADIO APPEALS FOR CLOTHING HAVE BEEN HEARTENING. IN ADDITION, LOCAL GROUPS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SEVERAL HUNDRED RAND. BELIEVE GOS PREPARED MAKE CONTRIBUTION APPROXIMATELY 5,000 RAND.

6. FOLLOWING COUNTRY TEAM DISCUSSIONS, EMBASSY PROPOSES OFFER \$10,000 TO LOCAL RED CROSS AND REQUESTS AUTHORITY PURSUANT THIRD PARAGRAPH OF 2 FAM 061.3. OFFER WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON (A) GOS DETERMINATION THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT FOREIGN DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS, (B) GOS WILLINGNESS MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION ITSELF, AND (C) RED CROSS AGREEMENT TO REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF USG FUNDS. ON POINT (C), EMBASSY CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY EXPRESSION OF PREFERENCE FOR EARMARKING FOR ROOFING MATERIALS. FATHER CHARBONEAU AGREEABLE TO ASSISTING RED CROSS TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR INSURING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THAT USG FUNDS USED APPROPRIATELY. CONTRIBUTION AT \$10,000 LEVEL WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO MEET GREATEST NEED AND TO GENERATE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY BUT NOT ENOUGH TO GIVE GOS IMPRESSION THAT USG ASSUMING MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNDING THESE (AND FUTURE) DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.
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7. AMBASSADOR CONCURS.

8. WOULD APPRECIATE PRIORITY RESPONSE.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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